This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 22, wherein the cross section of the annular concave surface is arcuate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the cross section of the convex surface is arcuate.

7. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the convex surface is annular about the axis of the piston, wherein the inner end face includes a flat surface that joins to and is located radially inside the annular convex surface.

8. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the end wall includes a plurality of ribs, wherein the ribs extend radially on the inner end face and are arranged at equal angular intervals.

9. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 23, further comprising a head piece and a body piece that is coupled to the head piece, wherein the head piece includes the end wall, and the body piece includes the remainder of the piston, and wherein, when the head piece and the body piece are separated, the inner end face is exposed.

10. (Currently Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston is adapted to be accommodated in a cylinder bore of the compressor, the piston comprising:

an end wall that receives the pressure of the cylinder bore, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face that is exposed to the pressure of the cylinder bore and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein a recess is formed in the outer end face; and

a protrusion that is formed on the inner end face to reinforce the strength of the end wall against the pressure applied to the outer end face, wherein the protrusion includes a plurality of integral ribs.

11. (Original) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the protrusion is aligned axially with the recess.

12. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face.

13. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 12, wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface.

14. (Original) The piston according to claim 13, wherein the convex surface is aligned axially with the recess.

15. (Original) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the protrusion is located on the axis of the piston.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the ribs extend radially.

18. (Original) The piston according to claim 17, wherein the ribs are arranged at equal angular intervals.

19. (Original) The piston according to claim 10, further comprising a head piece and a body piece that is coupled to the head piece, wherein the head piece includes the end wall, and the body piece includes the remainder of the piston, and wherein, when the head piece and the body piece are separated, the inner end face is exposed.

20. (Original) A method for manufacturing a hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston includes a head piece and a body piece that is coupled to the head piece, wherein the head piece includes an end wall that receives the pressure of a cylinder bore of the compressor and the body piece includes the remainder of the piston, and wherein the end wall includes a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, the method comprising:

preparing a mold for forming the head piece, wherein the mold is designed such that a temporary protrusion that is not present in the finished head piece is formed on the inner end face;

pouring molten metal into the mold;

pushing the temporary protrusion before the molten metal solidifies to prevent formation of shrinkage cavities; and

removing the protrusion after the molten metal solidifies.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein preparing of a mold includes designing the mold such that a reinforcing protrusion is formed on the inner end face, wherein the temporary protrusion is formed on the reinforcing projection.

22. (Currently Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston has an end wall that receives the pressure of a cylinder bore of the compressor, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face, thereby the thickness of the end wall first decreases from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion and then increases, wherein the thinnest portion of the end wall is closer to the outermost peripheral portion of the inner end face than to the axial center of the inner end face with respect to the radial direction of the inner end face,

wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface, wherein the annular concave surface is a smooth curved surface, and wherein the cross section of the concave surface is uniform over the entire circumference about the axis of the piston.

23. (Currently Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston has an end wall that receives the pressure of a cylinder bore of the compressor, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face, thereby the thickness of the end wall first decreases from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion and then increases, wherein the thinnest portion of the end wall is closer to the outermost peripheral portion of the inner end face than to the axial center of the inner end face with respect to the radial direction of the inner end face,

wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface, wherein the convex surface is a smooth curved surface, and wherein the cross section of the convex surface is uniform over the entire circumference about the axis of the piston.

24. (Canceled)